

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OFA-01

OES-03 DLOS-04 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 /081 W

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P R 022300Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8216

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0043

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CI, BOL, PE

SUBJ: POSSIBLE BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO THE SEA

REF: LIMA 10662

1. I SPOKE INFORMALLY JANUARY 1 WITH FONOFF SEC GEN MARCHAND ABOUT THE CURRENT INITIATIVES TOWARD A BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO THE SEA. TAKING THE SAME LINE AS WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO WASHINGTON GARCIA BEDOYA, I INDICATED OUR FRIENDLY INTEREST AND SAID WE VIEW FAVORABLY EFFORTS BY THE THREE PARTIES TO SOLVE THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM. ONCE THEY HAD REACHED AGREEMENT, THE U.S. MIGHT BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME HELPFUL WAY. MARCHAND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

2. I REFERRED TO STORIES IN SOME CIRCLES THAT THE BOLIVIAN AND CHILEAN INITIATIVES WERE A U.S.-INSPIRED PLOY TO EMBARRASS PERU. I ASSURED HIM THAT SUCH STORIES WERE NOT TRUE, THAT ALTHOUGH WE VIEWED THE NEGOTIATIONS FAVORABLY, WE WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED AND SAW NO USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY AT THIS TIME. MARCHAND ASSURED ME HE AND THE GOP KNOW THESE STORIES ARE UNTRUE.

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3. MARCHAND ASSURED ME OF THE POSITIVE HIGH LEVEL GOP INTEREST IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CENTURY-OLD PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAD RECEIVED BOTH THE CHILEAN AND BOLIVIAN AMBASSADORS (SEPARATELY) ON DECEMBER 31, FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL END-OF-YEAR RECEPTION FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION. IN ADDITION, MARCHAND CONFIDED THAT THE GOP WILL NAME A HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION TO WORK ON THIS PROBLEM. IT WILL BE COMPOSED OF FORMER PRESIDENT BUSTAMANTE RIVERA, HISTORIAN JORGE BASADRE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER MERCADO JARRIN, DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL LAWYER ANDRES ARAMBURU MENCHACA, AND AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA, AMONG OTHERS. HE ASKED ME TO KEEP THIS INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL THE FORTHCOMING ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE BY THE GOP. BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES AND OPPOSITION TO THE CORRIDOR AT ARICA, THE GOP HAD TO STUDY THE QUESTION CAREFULLY, AVOID PRESSURE AND INVOLVE SOME OF ITS MOST PROMINENT AND RESPECTED CITIZENS IN ANY FINAL DECISION.

DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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